

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Croatia
<b>Program Title:</b>	Citizen Participation & Improved Governance
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	160-0210
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$5,140,000 AEEB
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$1,740,000 AEEB
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$5,015,000 AEEB
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2001
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	FY 2005

**Summary:** Croatia's fragile coalition government continues to face major challenges in promoting and consolidating democratic reforms. These challenges include: improving the enabling environment for civil society and media; fortifying the legislative framework; strengthening the transparency, responsiveness and accountability of governance at all levels; enhancing the capacity of local governments; and promoting judicial reform. USAID-funded activities designed to help the GOC meet these challenges include support for local government reform, NGO and civil society development, political party and legislative strengthening, and judicial reform.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2003 Program:

Increase the capacity of local governments to manage the new administrative and fiscal demands brought on by decentralization (\$1,860,000 AEEB). USAID's local government reform program assists pilot local governments with "best-practices" in financial and asset management, local economic development, and citizen participation in local affairs. Expansion and dissemination of this program to over 500 local governments will effectively introduce reforms to most of the local government sector in Croatia. The project will help these governments to become fiscally responsible and accountable. Principal contractor/grantee is: Urban Institute (prime).

Improve the capacity of local civil society organizations and the overall NGO sector in Croatia (\$1,200,000 AEEB). USAID's NGO program, launched in December 2001, is providing 13 leading Croatian NGOs with the management, fund-raising, and outreach skills they need to become sustainable, helping them to reach out to grass-roots organizations through small grants. The NGOs that received USAID assistance are today the strongest in the country and are the cornerstones of the current civil society program. These NGOs cover various sectors including health, environmental protection, human rights, community development, disabled persons, youth and women. This program will also help to operationalize the GOC's Office of NGOs and help it push through a much needed law on foundations. Principal contractor/grantee is: Academy for Educational Development (prime).

Increase responsiveness and accountability of Croatia's political parties and Parliament (\$1,680,000 AEEB). USAID's programs will continue to strengthen the political party structure, enabling the parties to more accurately represent the view and goals of their constituents. In addition, at the national level, USAID's ongoing Parliamentary program will assist Members of Parliament to work more effectively in committees and caucuses in an effort to help the Parliament become a transparent and representative institution with effective internal operations. A national poll identifying the general population's priorities will be carried out to help political parties to prepare for and compete effectively in the upcoming round of elections in early 2004. A get-out-the-vote campaign will also be funded to help promote this next pivotal round of elections. Principal contractors/grantees are: International Republican Institute and National Democratic Institute (primes).

Increase Croatian judges' professional development and courtroom management (\$400,000 AEEB). Enormous case backlogs and lengthy delays in case processing are recognized as a significant constraint to citizens' access to justice in Croatia. The civil litigation process is so inefficient that it can take three to five years for one case to obtain an enforceable judgment. USAID assistance through the American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) will work with the Croatian judiciary on alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods that will seek to ease some of the case backlogs. In addition, ABA/CEELI will work with the Croatian Supreme Court to develop a public education and information campaign to inform the public about court administration, judicial proceedings, and the rights of litigants and will continue to provide legal expertise in the development of sustainable changes to the Law School curriculum. Principal contractor/grantee is: ABA/CEELI (prime).

**FY 2004 Program:**

Increase the capacity of local governments to manage the new administrative and fiscal demands brought on by decentralization (\$1,985,000 AEEB). Additional funding will enable the program to extend best practices to more local governments, introduce reforms to most of the local government sector, familiarize citizens with their role in a democracy, and consolidate gains that have been made in the sector. The key result will be a critical mass of communities capable of assuming new responsibilities for the decentralization process, a development providing for important spread effects.

Improve the capacity of local civil society organizations and the overall NGO sector in Croatia (\$2,105,000 AEEB). As the NGO sector develops more capacity, it will work more with local governments in the area of service delivery with the overall goal of fostering a liberal society that enables and encourages citizen participation.

Increase responsiveness and accountability of Croatia's political parties (\$525,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to work with Croatia's political parties, particularly at the local government level in the lesser developed regions within the country, in order to help them prepare and compete in the local elections scheduled for mid-to-late 2004.

Increase Croatian judges' professional development and courtroom management (\$400,000 AEEB). ABA/CEELI will continue its efforts to establish sustainable, effective clinical law programs at Croatia's law faculties, introduce effective ADR mechanisms, and develop a permanent Judicial Training Center.

**Performance and Results:** Of 567 local governments, over 400 (more than 75%) are using practices introduced by the program, thereby strengthening their capacity to assume increased responsibilities. Also, cities across Croatia are managing their financial affairs better. In addition, USAID provided technical assistance, training and materials to independent print and broadcast media and to journalists' professional associations. As a result, 24 media outlets (13 radio, 4 print, 7 television) are now operating on a self sustaining basis, generating needed revenues. Likewise, Croatia's only independent television network is now financially and technically independent and broadcasts high quality programs.

USAID's program resulted in significant improvement to NGO infrastructure, enabling a group of six Croatian NGOs to become service providers for smaller NGOs as well as local governments. The program also helped NGOs to successfully lobby for changes to the Law on Social Welfare regarding benefits and work opportunities for persons with disabilities. Assistance to Croatia's political parties resulted in the creation of Party Coordinators whose role is to serve as liaisons between party headquarters, their branch offices and local elected representatives. Zagreb Municipal Court judges and staff have demonstrated improved case management capacity, disposing of 4,400 more civil cases in 2001. Case backlogs also have been reduced.

Future engagement in local government reform and NGO capacity-building will help Croatia achieve levels of democratic reform comparable to graduate SEED countries. A critical mass of communities will assume new responsibilities for the decentralization process, allowing continuance of this process. A local NGO will be better prepared to act as a legacy mechanism, ensuring that three grant-giving and ten other organizations will be able to diversify their funding base, improve their financial sustainability, and weather any gaps of assistance to the civil society sector from larger donors such as the EU.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

**Croatia**

160-0210 Citizen Participation & Improved Governance	<b>AEEB</b>
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>	
Obligations	28,594
Expenditures	20,646
Unliquidated	7,948
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>	
Obligations	11,150
Expenditures	7,802
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>	
Obligations	39,744
Expenditures	28,448
Unliquidated	11,296
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>	
Obligations	1,740
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>	
Obligations	5,140
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>	
Obligations	6,880
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>	
Obligations	5,015
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	51,639

FY 2002 Obligations include \$2.5m of FY 2001 Supplemental AEEB.